



Update from the Medical Director



While it has been cold and wet, the service has been trying to increase screening capacity by commissioning new infrastructure. The opening up of the Albany clinic will allow the mobile van to re-deploy to screen women in the outer Metropolitan area an additional 15 months every 2-year cycle. The second mammography machine at Bunbury will also increase screening capacity in the Bunbury and surrounding region.

It has been great to welcome new faces to the BreastScreen WA team, and I hope they receive a warm welcome from us all.

Dr Liz Wylie

New permanent clinic opens in Albany

On Friday 4 June The MLA for Albany, Rebecca Stephens on behalf of the Minister for Health, officially opened the new BreastScreen WA Clinic in Albany. This new permanent clinic will operate year-round and replace the Mobile Screening Unit which previously visited Albany on average of 12-15 months out of every two-year cycle.

Vernice Gillies, Menang Elder kicked off the proceedings with a beautiful Welcome to Country providing some family background regarding Vernice's own mother's experience with breast cancer.

The event was celebrated by the people of Albany and surrounding areas with Albany MLA Rebecca Stephens saying she was delighted to see the clinic open.



Pictured above from left to right: Lisa Watson, Jean Wilson, Sue Bickford, Lorraine Naylor, and Doreen Lyon



Rebecca Stephens MLA and Vernice Gillies Menang Elder (pictured centre) with BreastScreen WA staff.

The clinic will be open 3 days a week and is expected to provide an average of 3,000 screens annually to women in the Greater Southern region of Western Australia. The first screenings commenced on Wednesday 9 June 2021.

The clinic has been designed to accommodate future growth in demand and has the capacity to increase to fulltime screening and house a second

National Volunteer Week

On the week beginning 17 May we honoured our volunteers during National Volunteer Week and all through the year. A big thank you to all of you. Please know BreastScreen WA and the ladies who come to us are forever grateful for the amazing and often unheralded work you do in our Assessment clinics. A friendly smile and a cuppa go a long way to reassuring women in a space of high anxiety. Carol Holleley pictured below is just one of our wonderful volunteers at Royal Perth Hospital Breast Assessment Clinic.



Carol has been volunteering in the breast clinic for several years, and she along with all of the other volunteers regularly receives positive feedback as they are mentioned every month by patients at Royal Perth Hospital.

Expansion at Bunbury Clinic



BreastScreen WA has been reorganising the Bunbury screening and assessment clinic to enable the installation of a second mammography machine. The staff at the Bunbury clinic are pleased to finally have the ability to screen more women and are looking forward to the minor works being completed.

BreastScreen WA staff updates



In April we welcomed Jodie Blanchard to BreastScreen WA who commenced her role as a Clinical Support Officer with Rose Bryant in Medical Administration. Jodie worked previously for the Department of Agriculture and the Environment at the

Perth International Airport. Before this Jodie has worked in various science related fields including the Pest and Disease information Service at the state Department of Agriculture Jodie has predominantly worked as a Horticulturist. Jodie's interests include all forms of art and craft, animals, getting out in nature and travelling overseas.



A very warm welcome to Anna-Lisa Elliott who is our newest addition to the BreastScreen WA nurse counselling team.

"Hi my name is Anna. I have been a nurse for 27 years and for the last 6 have been working as a Breast Care Nurse at

the Fiona Stanley, Breast Assessment Unit. I find Breast Cancer Nursing very soul satisfying. At home, I have 3 children, a husband, a dog and 2 cats. My favourite child is my dog! I hold indigenous health close to my heart because I have Aboriginal heritage and love to promote Aboriginal Health. I love to socialise with friends and am a mad Dockers supporter!!"



Welcome to Gail Isles who has recently joined the BreastScreen WA screening services team. Gail is originally from London and trained and worked at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS trust. Gail, her husband and their 3 children moved to Perth in 2018. She is

an experienced general and CT radiographer but has never done mammography before so she is "excited to be given the opportunity to work with everyone here at BSWA." Gail spoke very highly of her work colleagues saying that "Everyone has been so welcoming and it's great to be part of a team of people all working towards the same goal."



Jeetendra Puntanbekar

Jeetendra commenced his role with BSWA this month. Prior to this he has worked with WA Health at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital and Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospital Group. His primary role involved record merging as a data representative to central data custodian. Jeet comes from Systems and Process background. In his earlier roles he has worked as a Business Manager and Business Analyst. Jeet's interests include meditation and racket sports. As a meditation trainer he has conducted weekly sessions at Fiona Stanley Burns, Rehabilitation wards and the Chapel as part of the wellness program.

WNHS Wellness quiz night announced!

